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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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Hungarian Patriotic Peoples Front Convenes Today

The Fourth Congress of the Hungarian Peoples Front (PPF) will convene on 17 April. The Hungarian press described the congress as a "highly significant event of Hungarian domestic politics", suggesting that something unusual will happen. The Congress will discuss changes in the statutes of the PPF; "social structure and socialist patriotism; social and political questions on the economic reform; and the relations between youth and society". The latter documents were reportedly prepared by "a committee consisting of renowned personalities in public life and experts" which also suggest something special is in the offing.

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[redacted] the
meeting of the PPF would bring the first steps of a political reform in Hungary. [redacted] non-party intellectuals may receive more important roles in Hungary's government. [redacted]

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Summer Bundestag Session in Berlin Cancelled

The Bundestag work week session normally held in Berlin in June will be omitted this year by decision of Bundestag President Gerstenmaier. The normal fall session is still on, however, for September or October.

The US Embassy views this announcement as reflecting FRG willingness to scale down "non-important" activities in Berlin in exchange for something from Moscow. This is in line with the thinking of some West German leaders, particularly All-German Affairs Minister Wehner and State Secretary Krautwig. [redacted]

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COMMENT: Gerstenmaier's decision was made before the East Germans announced a ban prohibiting Bonn officials from transiting the GDR. However, some observers may view Bonn's action as another indication of tractability when faced with East German restrictions on access, such as the ban announced last month against members of the new-Nazi NPD which has been enforced by Pankow on a number of occasions.

UAR Foreign Minister to Visit Moscow, Prague and Budapest

UAR Foreign Minister Mahmud Riyad will begin a swing through Moscow, Prague and Budapest on 18 April. Cairo Radio says that Riyad's talks will center around questions of the Middle East Crisis "which could be raised outside the agenda" of the 24 April UN General Assembly session. [redacted]

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COMMENT: The draft NPT is scheduled to be the main item on the agenda of the 24 April UNGA session.

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Czechoslovak Party Congress May Not Be Held in First Half of 1969

Slovak Party First Secretary Vasil Bilak has been "corrected" by the Czechoslovak News Agency (CTK). Late last week, Bilak was quoted as saying the next party congress would be held in mid-1969, a year ahead of schedule. There has been opposition in the party to this, presumably from incumbents in the central and local apparatuses who fear that they will lose their jobs. In any case, CTK said last Saturday that it is impossible to say when the congress will be held, and emphasizes the necessity of careful preparation. This is in line with the compromise position which party boss Dubcek had to take after the 1 to 5 April central committee plenum. Dubcek's remarks however, do not exclude a congress next year.

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NOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED ABOVE REPRESENT
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